

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice.

By the present preliminary amendment original Claims 1-9 are cancelled and new Claims 10-18 are presented for examination. New Claims 10-19 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including cancelled Claims 1-9, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new Claims 10-19 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with cancelled Claims 1-9.

The Abstract has also been amended by the present response to be in more proper format under United States practice.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703)413-2220
SNS/cja
I:\atty\SNS\221423US-pr.wpd